FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 1, 2022

**Muncie’s Metropolitan Status Protected by Senate Bill, Passed Unanimously**

In January, 2021, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposed changing the population threshold to define a Metropolitan Statistical Area. The change would redefine cities with fewer than 100,000 residents as non-metropolitan areas, whereas currently a city with 50,000 residents is classified as a Metropolitan area. Federal programs often rely on Metro status to inform funding and eligibility decisions, and the change would affect 142 cities with nearly 19 million residents.

Muncie is one of the cities that would lose Metro status under the new classification. Concerned about the possible impact of the proposal, Mayor Ridenour reached out to Senator Braun to advocate for Muncie residents. Senator Braun, along with other lawmakers, opposed OMB’s proposal. Last week, Senate bill *S 1941* unanimously passed with support from Senator Braun, effectively limiting OMB’s authority to redefine Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

In a notice sent to Mayor Ridenour, Sen. Braun’s Indiana Outreach Director Terry Seitz stated “This decision reflects action on the outreach the City of Muncie made to the Senator’s staff in 2021.” The City of Muncie would like to thank the Senator’s office for taking prompt action and advocating for mid-size cities all across America.